



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

**Department of
Workforce Services**

KRISTEN COX
Executive Director

CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE
Deputy Director

GREGORY B. GARDNER
Deputy Director

DWS News

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2009

Contact: Curt Stewart 801-526-4315

UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: February 2009

Salt Lake City – Utah's nonfarm wage and salaried job count for February 2009, as generated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), contracted by 2.1 percent. Approximately 26,000 jobs have been removed from the Utah economy over the past year, lowering total wage and salary employment to 1,221,600.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, continued to rise, increasing to 5.1 percent in February. Last February, the state's rate was 3.3 percent, a 1.8 percentage-point increase over the past 12 months. Approximately 70,400 Utahns were considered unemployed in February 2009, compared against 45,000 last February, an increase of 25,400 unemployed workers. The United States unemployment rate continued to rise, reaching 8.1 percent.

An in-depth analysis of the monthly report is available on the DWS Website, jobs.utah.gov. For more information, contact the department's Chief Economist, Mark Knold at 801-526-9458.

###DWS###